Did you know?

- More than half of the nation's water pollution comes from stormwater runoff, the water that flows over our streets, lawns, and parking lots during a rain event. The runoff washes harmful substances, like oil, detergents, paints, dirt, trash, and bacteria, into the storm drains. This polluted runoff, along with illegally dumped hazardous materials, trash, and yard waste, harms aquatic wildlife and their habitat, and contaminates our drinking water sources.
- Storm drains are different from sanitary sewers. Water entering the storm drain system flows directly into the nearest creek, pond, or river, without treatment to remove contaminants.



What every business should do!

- Dispose of trash and wastewater properly. Wastewater or trash cannot be disposed of in the storm drain.
- Contain wash water and don't allow it to flow off your property.
- Clean up a spill with absorbents rather than hosing it down the stormdrain.

Please be advised that it is a violation of Richardson City Ordinance to discharge wastewater or dump waste into storm drains and may result in a Notice of Violation, a Citation, or Court Fines.



Landscaping and Lawn Care

- Limit the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Avoid using chemicals entirely in wet weather. Lawn chemical runoff adds excess nutrients to our creeks, which leads to algae blooms, bad odors, and fish kills.
- Dispose of yard and lawn clippings properly. Never dump, rake, sweep, or blow leaves and lawn clippings into the street or storm drain. Grass clippings can be mulched into the lawn when mowed or composted to make natural fertilizer.
- Landscape with native plant species.
 They require less water and fewer chemicals than introduced plants, and are better suited to survive Texas weather.
- Don't over water the lawn. Water only when needed; infrequently but deeply. Irrigation water that falls on streets, sidewalks, and driveways is wasted water that creates harmful runoff.

Automotive Related Businesses

- Never pour vehicle fluids or any hazardous wastes into a sink, toilet, floor drain, storm drain, or into the garbage. Vehicle fluids are extremely toxic to aquatic life. Even small quantities can pollute large volumes of water and contaminate drinking water sources.
- Transfer drained vehicle fluids to a designated waste storage area quickly. The storage area must be indoors, shielded from rainfall, and contained to prevent runoff. Recycle the fluids whenever possible.
- Parts and tool cleaning, vehicle washing, or detailing wastewater or residues must never discharge to (or remain in an area that drains to) the street or into a storm drain.
- Train personnel to prevent spills, but if they occur, clean them up immediately using absorbents or rags. Never "hose down" a spill.

Food Establishments

- Pour wash water into the mop sink. Never pour it out onto the street, sidewalk, alley, or parking lot.
- Recycle grease and oil; don't pour it into sinks, drains, or onto the street or parking lot. Grease traps should be cleaned routinely. If you have a grease trap overflow, contact your wastehauler immediately.
- Clean floor mats, filters, and garbage cans in a mop sink or floor drain. Never wash them in the parking lot, alley, sidewalk, or street.

Keep the dumpster area clean and the lid closed. Never fill it with liquid waste or hose it out. Report leaking containers to the provider for repair or cleaning if they are heavily soiled.

Carpet Cleaners

- Never discharge carpet or upholstery cleaning wastewater to the street, storm drain, ditch, or creek. Carpet cleaning wastewater must be disposed of in the sanitary sewer, with the property owner's approval.
- Carpet cleaning wastewater contains detergent, solvents, dyes, conditioners, and other contaminating materials, as well as dirt, that can pollute neighborhood creeks and kill fish.

Swimming Pool & Spa Service

- Pools should be drained into the sanitary sewer or onto landscaping.
 Never drain a pool or spa to the street, storm drain, or local creek.
- Allow the chlorine in pool and spa water to dissipate before draining.
 Chlorine is toxic to aquatic organisms and will destroy their habitat. If the pool water cannot be allowed to sit until chlorine levels drop, then sodium thiosulfate should be added per the label directions.
- Pool filter medium, such as diatomaceous earth (DE), should be screened from backwash waters and properly disposed of as solid waste.
- Do not use copper based algaecides. Proper chlorination levels should prevent algae problems. Copper algaecides used in pools and spas are toxic to aquatic organisms and other wildlife.

This material is being provided as part of Richardson's effort to keep pollutants out of storm drains and neighborhood creeks.



Stormwater Pollution Prevention For Businesses



For more information
about stormwater pollution,
contact the
Richardson Environmental Health
Department at 972-744-4080 or
visit the Health Department/ Water Quality
website at www.cor.net

Keeping our creeks clean is everyone's business.